



## SUCCESS STORIES

### Danny



Danny's adoption was finalized in the spring of 2002. His new family makes a concerted effort to provide Danny with opportunities denied him in his previous life. An avid athlete, he plays basketball and baseball, plus he's taking lessons to qualify for a tournament tennis league team.

Children need to believe in their own ability to succeed in life. That self-confidence comes from having a loving and supportive family. Recently, Danny was surprised to learn he had scored above average on the school district's academic-achievement test — another positive sign of good things to come for this deserving child.

Adoption not only makes a world of difference for a child, it offers special rewards to the parents, as well. Danny's new dad, a first-time father at 48, expresses it this way: "Danny is thriving — it is awesome to be a part of his life and to have him in ours."

### Trevor



Adoptive children don't have to be taught patience — they live it every day. For nearly four years, Trevor waited for a family of his own. While he never gave up hope, he made the conscious decision to "make the best of now rather than live in the future."

Trevor's patience was finally rewarded when a letter he posted on the Wednesday's Child Web site generated a number of qualified responses. With the help of an adoption-selection committee, Trevor chose a candidate and a meeting was arranged. That first meeting happened to fall on Trevor's 16th birthday. Fortunately, it was successful and more meetings followed over the ensuing months. As Trevor discovered the many interests he and his prospective foster father shared, the relationship grew stronger. Finally, Trevor was able to leave Idaho and join his new family in a northeastern state.

Trevor is working on building trust with his new family through responsible behavior. His new dad is eager to help him earn privileges and freedoms he has never enjoyed before. While the prospect of having access to a notebook computer, a cell phone, and eventually maybe a car are appealing, Trevor knows the greatest benefit comes from having the attention and love of someone who believes in his ability to have a successful future.

## Patty and James



Generally, it is easier to find adoptive homes for single children rather than sibling groups. Placement can be especially difficult if one or more of the siblings have behavioral problems that require special attention. Patty and her younger brother, James, were in need of an adoptive family willing to keep them together and help them through some difficult behavioral issues. Fortunately, they found an adoptive parent with the emotional maturity and conviction to do both.

More and more single parents are assuming the role of adoptive parents. And not all of these single parents are women — some are men. That was the case for Patty and James. A single man living outside of Idaho saw the children on the Wednesday's Child Web site and contacted the organization. His realistic perspective and interpersonal skills made him a good match for this brother and sister.

According to the adoption social worker, the children are making great progress with their new father. Three-year old James is talking more and Patty's social skills have greatly improved. In addition to a new father, the children also have an extensive extended family eager to contribute to their upbringing.

## Brian



Children in their teens often have a tougher time finding adoptive parents than younger children. Even when confronted with delays, these children remain hopeful. That was certainly true for 15-year-old Brian. Despite years of waiting, Brian remained upbeat and positive about finding the right family.

Wednesday's Child sponsors activities like barbeques and shopping expeditions where community volunteers have an opportunity to mentor children awaiting adoption. It was during one of these events that Brian first met his future adoptive family. Forty-something and with two grown boys of their own, the couple enjoyed spending time with children. However, it was Brian who made the greatest impression. They admired his enthusiasm and, after spending only a few weeks in his company, they made the decision to initiate the adoption process. An adoption-selection committee reviewed the adoption request and determined the couple was a good match for Brian's personality and emotional needs. Finally, there was a permanent family for the 15-year-old boy who refused to give up his dream of a family. After the new school year began, Brian was able to join his new family in a pre-adoptive placement.



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH & WELFARE

For additional information about foster care or adoption, call the Idaho CareLine at 211 or go to [www.idahochild.org](http://www.idahochild.org)